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## Work and Workers.

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THE course of lectures in theology which were delivered last year before the Chicago Theological Seminary by Rev. JAMES DENNEY, D.D., are soon to be published by Hodder and Stoughton (London), under the title *Studies in Theology*.

THE announcement of the INTERNATIONAL LESSONS for the year 1896 is that the first six months will be spent upon the Gospel of Luke, the last six months upon the Old Testament history of David and Solomon, covering 2 Samuel and 1 Kings to the twelfth chapter.

AFTER eleven years the STRACK AND ZÖCKLER COMMENTARY on the Bible has at last reached completion, the final volume being by Professor Strack himself upon the first four Old Testament books. The second and revised edition of the volumes upon the New Testament will be ready next year.

IT is now definitely stated that the *Theology of the Old Testament*, by Professor A. B. DAVIDSON, will be issued by the end of next year. The *Expository Times*, in making this announcement, replies to a correspondent's inquiry that Schultz's *Old Testament Theology* (Scribners) is the best work upon the subject now, and one which will not be superseded by the forthcoming book, but must be used in conjunction with it. The standpoint, and therefore the view of the two writers, will be found to be quite different in many respects.

A GIFT of ten thousand dollars from Mr. T. Wistar Brown of Philadelphia to Haverford College (Haverford, Penn.) makes it possible for the president of that institution to announce the foundation of an annual biblical lectureship, to be known as the HAVERFORD LIBRARY LECTURES. The course each year is to be given in January, by some recognized scholar of America or England. The first lecturer on the endowment is to be J. Rendel Harris, M.A., Professor of Palæography at Cambridge University, England. This was an excellent thing for Mr. Brown to do, and many other men of means interested in other institutions, and in the ascertainment and spread of truth, might well follow his example.

INFORMATION received from the work being done by Dr. Bliss at Jerusalem under the Palestine Exploration Fund is to the effect that he has found the gate near the southwest angle of the wall to which the lately uncovered paved road led. This gate stood four feet higher than the road, and the sill is still in position. Upon going just four feet lower, Dr. Bliss

found a still older gate, which is clearly a part of the earliest wall. Thus he has opened the foundations of the times of the kings. Four large square towers have also been uncovered near the same corner. At the same time Herr Schick reports the discovery of the gate called, as early as the twelfth century, the Leper's Gate. This is in the present northern wall, and seems to indicate that that wall never lay farther out than it does now. This has an important bearing upon the location of the sepulchre.

THE periodical which we used to know three years ago as the *Magazine of Christian Literature*, published by the Christian Literature Company of New York, has at last returned to its former state. It does not seem to have found satisfaction in its conjunction either with the *Thinker*, which was tried one year, or with the *Review of the Churches*, which was tried the second year. So it has resumed its original characteristics under the title *Christian Literature*, and will as before reprint from current periodicals some of the best articles on biblical and theological subjects, according to a principle of selection which was always approved by its readers. The departments of book reviews, current literature, and chronicles are also present in their former excellent style. The magazine is to be congratulated upon its return after two years of wandering—its original form was its best and most useful form.

THE annual meeting of the American Society of Church Society was held in Washington, December 27 and 28, at the Columbian University. The following papers constituted the programme: Ritschl's Place in the History of Doctrine, by Professor C. M. Mead, Ph.D., D.D., of Hartford Theological Seminary; Letters from John Hus to his Church in Prague, by Rev. M. J. Cramer, D.D.; Some Elements in the Making of the United States, by Rev. C. H. Small; The Last Days of Thomas Paine, by Professor A. C. Thomas, of Haverford College; Philip Schaff, by Professor George P. Fisher, D.D., LL.D., of Yale University; Samuel Sewall (1652-1730) and his Generation in Massachusetts, by Professor J. S. Ewell, of Howard University; The Death of English Presbyterianism after the Revolution of 1688, by Professor T. C. Johnson, D.D., of Hampden-Sidney Theological Seminary. The papers were excellent and well received.

A REQUEST comes to the BIBLICAL WORLD that it should advocate the preparation by Professor Thayer of an abridged edition of his *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. This is asked for on the ground that as a matter of fact the great majority of ministers will not use the larger work, but would use the smaller one. We are sorry not to be able to comply with this request, but it does not seem the best thing. There are plenty of small, good and cheap lexicons to the New Testament (for example, Hickie's *Lexicon of the New Testament*, published by Macmillans at seventy-five cents) for all who wish merely to translate the Greek of the New Testament, and are unable or unwilling to use an adequate lexicon. But no competent or satis-

factory study can be made of the New Testament in the original without at least as much information as Thayer's *Lexicon* gives. The book should not be reduced to the level of minimum Greek Bible students, even though that class is large. The class itself must attain to the use of the present book if they would gain confidence and respect as teachers of the New Testament.

THE three most valuable Bibles in the world, says the *Sunday School Times*, are found in the British Museum, the National Library in Paris, and the Cloister of Belem, near Lisbon. The first is in manuscript, written by Alcuin and his pupils, and in 800 A.D. was presented to Charlemagne on the day of his coronation. In the thirties of the present century it was in the possession of a private gentleman in Basel, who offered it to the French government for 42,000 francs (\$8,400). Afterwards it was sold to the British Museum for the comparatively small sum of £750 (about \$3,750). The book is written in fine, small characters, and is decorated throughout with exquisite vignettes and arabesques. The chapter headings, as also the name of Jesus, are everywhere printed in gold. The Paris Bible was published in 1527, printed by order of Cardinal Ximenes, and dedicated to Leo X. One of the three copies, printed on vellum paper, was in 1789 sold to England for 12,000 francs (\$2,400). Afterwards this copy was presented to Louis Philippe, and in this way was placed in the National Library. The third, or Belem Bible, consists of nine folio volumes, and is written on parchment. It was stolen by Junot in 1807, and taken to Paris. Madame Junot, when Portugal wanted to buy the Bible back, asked 150,000 francs (\$37,500) for it. Louis XVIII., however, made the Portuguese government a present of the precious volumes.

THE President of a university, which is not named, contributed to the *Independent* of November 8 an article relating the ignorance which he discovered concerning the Bible in a certain Freshman class. The density and breadth of this ignorance is surprising only to those who have no opportunity of seeing what college students know and do not know of the Bible. However, it is only fair to say that the test was made on the basis of historical details and personalities, the majority from the Old Testament. There are a good many things that it is more important one should know than that Moses smote the rock in the wilderness, or that the shadow on Hezekiah's dial turned backward, or that the moon stood still in the valley of Ajalon, or that Esau's hands were hairy, or that the priests of Baal gashed themselves, and so on, all points which were taken by this president as tests of how much the Freshmen knew about the Bible. Yes, perhaps more persons knew about these things a generation or two ago than now, but there is a great deal more to be known now, things which are of much greater importance than these matters of the minutiae of Jewish history. The test cannot be considered a fair one. It should have been made upon the basis of matters which are of real significance to practical religious thought and life. If this president had

examined them as to how much they knew about the principles of Christianity, the chief teachings of Jesus and the main aspects of his life, he might have found that they were acquainted with that which was most essential. We have no right to expect that a Freshman, or for that matter a Senior, will have filled his mind with a thousand and one details even of Old Testament history. But the main point of the president's article is to be commended—we need more knowledge of the Bible, and the college student does not get a proper introduction to these masterpieces of religious literature. To get this needed acquaintance with the Bible, our writer recommends five things, all of which we thoroughly approve: (1) the reading of the Bible by every individual; (2) the reading of the Bible in the home; (3) the Sunday School teaching of the Bible should be more intelligent; (4) the American college must give adequate instruction in biblical truths, facts, and principles; (5) the different kinds of literature in the Bible must be recognized.